

F 107

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

COUNTRY Indochina REPORT NO. 25X1A
 SUBJECT Vietnamese Labor Organizations DATE DISTR. 15 December 1953
 NO. OF PAGES 7
 REQUIREMENT NO. RD
 REFERENCES
 25X1 OF INFO.
 PLACE ACQUIRED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Three branches of the labor movement in Vietnam are the Confederation Vietnamienne du Travail Chretien (CVTC), the Syndicat Libre Vietnamien,¹ and the Force Ouvriere.²

Confederation Vietnamien du Travail Chretien

2. The CVTC has 60,000 members³, the majority of which are in South Vietnam, with 12,000 members in the Saigon-Cholon area alone. In North Vietnam, the most recent area to be organized, membership exceeds 6,000. On 1 November 1952, total CVTC membership had been less than 6,000.
3. The creation of the CVTC or, as it was called then, the Association de Defense des Interets Professionels (ADIP)⁴, started the present trade union movement in Vietnam. The organization was established by a group of workers with Christian leanings and was authorized by a decree of the High Commissioner of France in Indochina dated 17 September 1949. At that time, Vietnamese labor was not free to organize and the workers were governed by the decree of 21 February 1941 (as revised by the decree of 11 October 1941) which was promulgated in Indochina on 22 October 1944. The labor laws of Vietnam carried no provision for the defense of labor by the workers themselves. But, in spite of the absence of a labor code and of freedom to organize, the ADIP pledged itself to fight along union lines and soon attracted the sympathy of the workers, thanks to the enthusiasm and effectiveness of its supporters.
4. Always conscious of its illegality, the ADIP sought constantly to obtain as quickly as possible an international guarantor capable of protecting its freedom of action and its very existence against threats of dissolution by the local authorities. In May 1950, the ADIP was recognized by the International Labor Organization (ILO). It then sought affiliation with another international labor organization. With the aim of safeguarding its Christian leanings and its

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

STATE EV	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
----------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

- 2 -

freedom of action, it requested affiliation with the International Federation of Christian Unions and was unanimously admitted at its 19th session at Vienna on 23 November 1951. At this time, ADIP's name was changed to the Confederation Vietnamiennne du Travail Chretien or Tong-lien doan Lao-cong Viet-nam. Thus the CVTC became represented in a private organization as well as in such official organizations as the UNESCO and the ILO. Although frowned upon by the Vietnamese government, the CVTC was nevertheless tolerated since the Government itself was seeking recognition by the social organizations of the United Nations.

5. On the basis of Christian morality and the principle of plural unionism,⁵ the CVTC stands for the liberation of the working class from both Communism and European-type capitalism. Although the majority of CVTC's directors and adherents are non-Christian, Catholic morality gives the organization a solid anti-Communist base and is analogous to the traditional moral pattern of Vietnam; it presents clear and precise organizational concepts found lacking in the vague traditional Vietnamese moral system, which has not kept pace with modern economic development. The formula of plural unionism offered by the CVTC is more in accord with the wishes of Vietnamese labor than the more rigid formula of liberal unions,⁶ which is too preoccupied with unity of action and which thus appears too dictatorial in the eyes of Vietnamese workers.
6. CVTC's principal activities are the formation of union affiliates, the education of its members in the principles of the CVTC (justice and charity), the struggle for a proper legal framework for organized labor and the work to improve the economic situation of the nation. Night classes⁷ are held for the better elements, especially the youth, with the aim of providing to the general membership a core of workers firm in their beliefs and capable of eventual assumption of the leadership. Simultaneously, the education of workers and peasants is being undertaken at the local level by means of lectures and tracts. However, the defense of the workers against governmental and employer pressures occupies most of the leaders' time.⁸
7. As an indication of the CVTC's support, the General Assembly of the CVTC of Central Vietnam at Hue on 10 May 1953 was attended by the Governor of Central Vietnam, the Bishop of Hue, the President of the Buddhist Congregation of Vietnam, and two representatives of the Chief Bonze of the Buddhist monastery of Central Vietnam.⁹
8. The leaders of the CVTC are:

a. National:	President:	Phan Van Dang, Commercial employee
	Vice President:	Ho Van An, Commercial employee, in charge of CVTC doctrinal purity.
	Secretary General:	Tran Quoc Buu, former political prisoner (10 years of forced labor, 10 years of exile, deported to Puolo Condore Island ¹⁰ in 1940).
	Assistant to the Secretary:	Tran Huu Quyen, former political prisoner (20 years of forced labor, deported to Puolo Condore Island in 1942)
	Advisor:	Maurice Jouan, appointed by the French High Commissioner
b. Central Vietnam:	President:	Le Van Vinh, private school teacher
	Secretary:	Bui Thuý, printer
	2nd Secretary:	Miss Pham Thi Nga, teacher
	Office:	83B Tran Hung Dao Street, Hue.
c. North Vietnam:	Office:	7 Thi Sach Street, Hanoi

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

- 3 -

9. Unions affiliated with the CVTC are as follows:

a. South Vietnam:

Saigon

Federated Union of Saigon
 Civil Aviation Employees
 Bus and Streetcar Employees
 Health Service and Medical Employees
 Match Factory Employees
 Tailors
 Shoemakers
 Glazers
 "Casque" Brand Hat Factory Employees
 Felt Hat Renovators
 Masons
 Joiners
 Tai Conh Lighterers
 Musicians
 French-Indian Employees
 Tugboat operators
 Hairdressers
 Terre Rouge Plantation Employees
 Weavers
 Road Transport Workers
 Bakers
 Journalists
 Photographers
 Employees of Commerce and Industry
 Union Sections: Port of Commerce Workers
 Motor Cyclo Operators
 Cyclo Operators
 Central Electric Employees
 Caltex Employees
 Ca-bac Pickle Works Employees
 Caric Employees
 Scama Employees
 Macadi Employees
 Malthausen Employees
 U.F.E.O. Employees
 S.I.R.A. Employees
 N.S.E.F.O. Employees

Cholon¹¹

Junkmen (boat operators)
 Employees of Commerce and Industry:
 Union Sections: Rice-Mill Workers
 Saw-Mill Workers
 Distillery Workers
 Food Handlers
 Household Utensils Workers

Gia Dinh

Day Laborers of Gia Dinh Public Works
 Donnai Ceramics Workers
 Gia Dinh Sawmill Workers (Union Section)
 Binh Phuoc Sugar Refinery Employees

La Thieu

Potters
 Lai Thien Ceramics Workers
 Teamsters

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

- 4 -

Sugar Industry Workers
 Clogmakers (wooden shoes)
 Road Transport Workers
 Thu Dau Mot Potters (Union Section)

My Tho

My Tho Public Works Employees
 My Tho Dredging Employees
 Employees of Commerce and Industry
 Agricultural Workers
 Health Service Employees
 Bakers
 Junkmen (boat operators)

Vinh Long

Public Vehicle Drivers
 Cyclo Operators
 Tilbury Operators

Can Tho

Agricultural Workers of D.A.O. Plantation

Go Cong

Construction Workers
 Road Transport Workers
 Employees of Commerce and Industry

b. Central Vietnam

There are 15 unions in Hue and 10 in Tourane (Da Nang). Of these, the most important are Dockers, Railroad Employees and Road Transport Workers. Others include: tailors, smiths, commerce and industry employees, hair-dressers, joiners, masons, shoemakers, metal workers, agricultural workers, heavers, construction work employees, sawyers, cyclo operators and private teachers.

c. North Vietnam

Hanoi Area Trade Unions: Health Service Employees
 Bus Depot Food Handlers
 Cyclo Operators
 Coppersmiths
 Tailors
 Joiners

Maritime Zone Trade Unions: Health Service Employees
 Dockers
 Graphic Arts

Phat Diem-Ninh Binh Unions: Tailors
 Bus Depot Food Handlers
 Junkmen (boat operators)
 Weavers
 Joiners
 Masons
 Shoemakers
 River Fishermen
 Hairdressers
 Transport Maintenance Workers

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt